

REMARKS

Claims 4-6, 10-12, 16-18, 22-24, 28-30 and 34-40 are pending in the above application. By the above amendment, claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-15, 19-21, 25-27 and 31-33 have been cancelled.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Office Action dated October 6, 2006, has been received and carefully reviewed. The Office Action objected to claims 4-6, 10-12, 16-18, 22-24, 28-30, 34-36 and 38-40, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of their base claims. By the above amendment, claims 4, 10, 16, 22, 28 and 34 have been rewritten in independent form, and the remaining ones of these objected to claims have been made dependent upon one of these claims. In view of this amendment, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-6, 10-12, 16-18, 22-24, 28-30, 34-36 are now in condition for allowance.

The Office Action indicated that claim 37 was allowed. Claims 38-40 depend from claim 37, but are listed as "objected to" in the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that claims 38-40 are allowable because of their dependence from an allowed base claim, and the objection to these claims is therefore respectfully traversed.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT DATED SEPTEMBER 7, 2006

An IDS was filed in this case on September 7, 2006. However, an initialed copy of the form PTO SB-O8 submitted with that IDS has not yet been returned to Applicant. It is respectfully requested that the examiner initial and return this form PTO SB-08 with the next communication to show that the reference listed thereon has been considered.

CONCLUSION

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated October 6, 2006, has been addressed, and it is believed that claims 4-6, 10-12, 16-18, 22-24, 28-30, 34-40 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

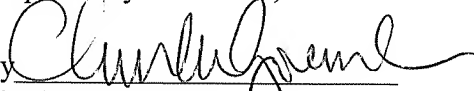
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750)

at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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